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SEN. SLOSSBERG, 14th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 106

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***"AN ACT CONCERNING IMPROVING EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION AND ENSURING SAFE
SCHOOL CLIMATES."***

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) The Commissioner of
4 Social Services and the Labor Commissioner shall permit a recipient of
5 temporary family assistance to take education courses as part of the
6 requirements of the recipient's employability plan, established
7 pursuant to section 17b-689c of the general statutes, provided: (1) The
8 state complies with federal work participation requirements for the
9 employment services program established pursuant to section 17b-
10 688c of the general statutes, and (2) the education courses are
11 approved pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

12 (b) To the extent permissible under federal law, the Labor
13 Commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social
14 Services, may approve education courses as required employment

15 activities for a recipient of temporary family assistance. Education
16 courses that may be approved include, but are not limited to: (1) Two-
17 year or four-year college degree programs, and (2) high school
18 graduate equivalency degree or basic education programs for
19 recipients otherwise ineligible to enroll in such programs during their
20 first twenty weekly hours of required employment activities.

21 (c) The Labor Commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner
22 of Social Services, shall implement policies and procedures to establish
23 (1) which programs may qualify as an approved employment activity,
24 and (2) enrollment and academic requirements for students who are
25 recipients of temporary family assistance. The Labor Commissioner
26 shall implement such policies and procedures while in the process of
27 adopting such policies and procedures in regulation form, provided
28 the Labor Commissioner provides notice of intent to adopt the
29 regulations in accordance with section 4-168 of the general statutes not
30 later than twenty days after implementing such policies and
31 procedures. Policies and procedures implemented pursuant to this
32 subsection shall be valid until the time final regulations are effective.

33 (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring the state
34 to pay for the tuition of any recipient of temporary family assistance.

35 Sec. 2. Section 10-222d of the general statutes is repealed and the
36 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

37 (a) As used in this section, sections 10-222g to 10-222i, inclusive, as
38 amended by this act, and section 10-222k, as amended by this act:

39 (1) "Bullying" means (A) the repeated use by one or more students
40 of a written, oral or electronic communication, such as cyberbullying,
41 directed at or referring to another student attending school in the same
42 school district, or (B) a physical act or gesture by one or more students
43 repeatedly directed at another student attending school in the same
44 school district, that: (i) Causes physical or emotional harm to such
45 student or damage to such student's property, (ii) places such student

46 in reasonable fear of harm to himself or herself, or of damage to his or
47 her property, (iii) creates a hostile environment at school for such
48 student, (iv) infringes on the rights of such student at school, or (v)
49 substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of
50 a school. "Bullying" shall include, but not be limited to, a written, oral
51 or electronic communication or physical act or gesture based on any
52 actual or perceived differentiating characteristic, such as race, color,
53 religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender
54 identity or expression, socioeconomic status, academic status, physical
55 appearance, or mental, physical, developmental or sensory disability,
56 or by association with an individual or group who has or is perceived
57 to have one or more of such characteristics;

58 (2) "Cyberbullying" means any act of bullying through the use of the
59 Internet, interactive and digital technologies, cellular mobile telephone
60 or other mobile electronic devices or any electronic communications;

61 (3) "Mobile electronic device" means any hand-held or other
62 portable electronic equipment capable of providing data
63 communication between two or more individuals, including, but not
64 limited to, a text messaging device, a paging device, a personal digital
65 assistant, a laptop computer, equipment that is capable of playing a
66 video game or a digital video disk, or equipment on which digital
67 images are taken or transmitted;

68 (4) "Electronic communication" means any transfer of signs, signals,
69 writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted
70 in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photoelectronic
71 or photo-optical system;

72 (5) "Hostile environment" means a situation in which bullying
73 among students is sufficiently severe or pervasive to alter the
74 conditions of the school climate;

75 (6) "Outside of the school setting" means at a location, activity or
76 program that is not school related, or through the use of an electronic

77 device or a mobile electronic device that is not owned, leased or used
78 by a local or regional board of education;

79 (7) "School employee" means (A) a teacher, substitute teacher,
80 school administrator, school superintendent, guidance counselor,
81 psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician, school paraprofessional
82 or coach employed by a local or regional board of education or
83 working in a public elementary, middle or high school; or (B) any
84 other individual who, in the performance of his or her duties, has
85 regular contact with students and who provides services to or on
86 behalf of students enrolled in a public elementary, middle or high
87 school, pursuant to a contract with the local or regional board of
88 education; and

89 (8) "School climate" means the quality and character of school life
90 with a particular focus on the quality of the relationships within the
91 school community between and among students and adults.

92 (b) Each local and regional board of education shall develop and
93 implement a safe school climate plan to address the existence of
94 bullying in its schools. Such plan shall: (1) Enable students to
95 anonymously report acts of bullying to school employees and require
96 students and the parents or guardians of students to be notified
97 [annually] at the beginning of each school year of the process by which
98 students may make such reports, (2) enable the parents or guardians of
99 students to file written reports of suspected bullying, (3) require school
100 employees who witness acts [of] that may constitute bullying or
101 receive reports of acts that may constitute bullying to orally notify the
102 safe school climate specialist, described in section 10-222k, as amended
103 by this act, or another school administrator if the safe school climate
104 specialist is unavailable, not later than one school day after such school
105 employee witnesses or receives a report of [bullying] such acts, and to
106 file a written report not later than two school days after making such
107 oral report, (4) require the safe school climate specialist to investigate
108 or supervise the investigation of all reports of acts that may constitute
109 bullying and ensure that such investigation is completed promptly

110 after receipt of any written reports made under this section and that
111 the parents or guardians of the student alleged to have committed an
112 act or acts of bullying and the parents or guardians of the student
113 against whom such alleged act or acts were directed receive prompt
114 notice that such investigation has commenced, (5) require the safe
115 school climate specialist to review any anonymous reports, except that
116 no disciplinary action shall be taken solely on the basis of an
117 anonymous report, (6) [include a prevention and intervention] require
118 a school-based bullying intervention and school climate improvement
119 strategy, as defined by section 10-222g, as amended by this act, for
120 school employees to deal with bullying, (7) provide for the inclusion of
121 language in student codes of conduct concerning bullying, (8) require
122 each school to notify the parents or guardians of students who commit
123 any verified acts of bullying and the parents or guardians of students
124 against whom such acts were directed not later than forty-eight hours
125 after the completion of the investigation described in subdivision (4) of
126 this subsection, (9) require each school to invite the parents or
127 guardians of a student [who commits any verified act of bullying and
128 the parents or guardians of the student] against whom such act was
129 directed to a meeting to communicate to such parents or guardians the
130 measures being taken by the school to ensure the safety of the student
131 against whom such act was directed and policies and procedures in
132 place to prevent further acts of bullying, (10) require each school to
133 invite the parents or guardians of a student who commits any verified
134 act of bullying to a meeting, separate and distinct from the meeting
135 required in subdivision (9) of this subsection, to discuss specific
136 interventions undertaken by the school to prevent further acts of
137 bullying, (11) establish a procedure for each school to document and
138 maintain records relating to reports and investigations of bullying in
139 such school and to maintain a list of the number of verified acts of
140 bullying in such school and make such list available for public
141 inspection, and annually report such number to the Department of
142 Education, and in such manner as prescribed by the Commissioner of
143 Education, [(11)] (12) direct the development of case-by-case
144 interventions for addressing repeated incidents of bullying against a

145 single individual or recurrently perpetrated bullying incidents by the
146 same individual that may include both counseling and discipline,
147 [(12)] (13) prohibit discrimination and retaliation against an individual
148 who reports or assists in the investigation of an act of bullying, [(13)]
149 (14) direct the development of student safety support plans for
150 students against whom an act of bullying was directed that address
151 safety measures the school will take to protect such students against
152 further acts of bullying, [(14)] (15) require the principal of a school, or
153 the principal's designee, to notify a school resource officer or the
154 appropriate local law enforcement agency when such principal, or the
155 principal's designee, believes that any acts [of bullying] may constitute
156 criminal conduct, [(15)] (16) prohibit bullying (A) on school grounds, at
157 a school-sponsored or school-related activity, function or program
158 whether on or off school grounds, at a school bus stop, on a school bus
159 or other vehicle owned, leased or used by a local or regional board of
160 education, or through the use of an electronic device or an electronic
161 mobile device owned, leased or used by the local or regional board of
162 education, and (B) outside of the school setting if such bullying (i)
163 creates a hostile environment at school for the student against whom
164 such bullying was directed, or (ii) infringes on the rights of the student
165 against whom such bullying was directed at school, or (iii)
166 substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of
167 a school, [(16)] (17) require, at the beginning of each school year, each
168 school to provide all school employees with a written or electronic
169 copy of the school district's safe school climate plan, along with a
170 written or electronic copy of school-based bullying intervention and
171 school climate improvement strategy developed pursuant to section
172 10-222k, as amended by this act, and [(17)] (18) require that all school
173 employees annually complete the training described in section 10-220a
174 or section 10-222j. The notification required pursuant to subdivision (8)
175 of this subsection and the invitation required pursuant to subdivision
176 (9) of this subsection shall include a description of the response of
177 school employees to such acts and any consequences that may result
178 from the commission of further acts of bullying.

179 (c) Not later than January 1, 2012, each local and regional board of
180 education shall approve the safe school climate plan developed
181 pursuant to this section and submit such plan to the Department of
182 Education. Not later than thirty calendar days after approval of such
183 plan by the local or regional board of education, the board shall make
184 such plan available on the board's and each individual school in the
185 school district's Internet web site and ensure that such plan is included
186 in the school district's publication of the rules, procedures and
187 standards of conduct for schools and in all student handbooks.

188 (d) On and after July 1, 2012, and [biennially] annually thereafter,
189 each local and regional board of education shall require each school in
190 the district to complete an assessment using the school climate
191 assessment instruments, including surveys, approved and
192 disseminated by the Department of Education pursuant to section 10-
193 222h. Each local and regional board of education shall collect the
194 school climate assessments for each school in the district and submit
195 such school climate assessments to the department.

196 Sec. 3. Section 10-222g of the general statutes is repealed and the
197 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

198 For the purposes of section 10-222d, as amended by this act, the
199 term ["prevention and intervention strategy"] "school-based bullying
200 intervention and school climate improvement strategy" may include,
201 but is not limited to, (1) implementation of a positive behavioral
202 interventions and supports process or another evidence-based model
203 approach for safe school climate or for the prevention of bullying
204 identified by the Department of Education, (2) school rules prohibiting
205 bullying, harassment and intimidation and establishing appropriate
206 consequences for those who engage in such acts, (3) adequate adult
207 supervision of outdoor areas, hallways, the lunchroom and other
208 specific areas where bullying is likely to occur, (4) inclusion of grade-
209 appropriate bullying education and prevention curricula in
210 kindergarten through high school, (5) individual interventions with
211 the bully, parents and school employees, and interventions with the

212 bullied child, parents and school employees, (6) school-wide training
213 related to safe school climate, (7) student peer training, education and
214 support, [and] (8) promotion of parent involvement in bullying
215 prevention through individual or team participation in meetings,
216 trainings and individual interventions, and (9) culturally competent
217 school-based curriculum focusing on social-emotional learning, self-
218 awareness and self-regulation. Funding for the school-based bullying
219 intervention and school climate improvement strategy may originate
220 from public, private, federal or philanthropic sources. For purposes of
221 this section, "interventions with the bullied child" includes referrals to
222 a school counselor, psychologist or other appropriate social or mental
223 health service, and periodic follow-up by the safe school climate
224 specialist with the bullied child.

225 Sec. 4. Section 10-222k of the 2014 supplement to the general statutes
226 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
227 *1, 2014*):

228 (a) For the school year commencing July 1, 2012, and each school
229 year thereafter, the superintendent of each local or regional board of
230 education shall appoint, from among existing school district staff, a
231 district safe school climate coordinator. The district safe school climate
232 coordinator shall: (1) Be responsible for implementing the district's safe
233 school climate plan, developed pursuant to section 10-222d, as
234 amended by this act, (2) collaborate with the safe school climate
235 specialists, described in subsection (b) of this section, the board of
236 education for the district and the superintendent of schools of the
237 school district to prevent, identify and respond to bullying in the
238 schools of the district, (3) provide data and information, in
239 collaboration with the superintendent of schools of the district, to the
240 Department of Education regarding bullying, in accordance with the
241 provisions of subsection (b) of section 10-222d, as amended by this act,
242 and subsection (a) of section 10-222h, and (4) meet with the safe school
243 climate specialists at least twice during the school year to discuss
244 issues relating to bullying and school climate in the school district and

245 to make recommendations concerning amendments to the district's
246 safe school climate plan.

247 (b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2012, and each school
248 year thereafter, the principal of each school, or the principal's designee,
249 shall serve as the safe school climate specialist and shall (1) investigate
250 or supervise the investigation of reported acts of bullying in the school
251 in accordance with the district's safe school climate plan, (2) collect and
252 maintain records of reports and investigations of bullying in the
253 school, and (3) act as the primary school official responsible for
254 preventing, identifying and responding to reports of bullying in the
255 school.

256 (c) (1) For the school year commencing July 1, 2012, and each school
257 year thereafter, the principal of each school shall establish a committee
258 or designate at least one existing committee in the school to be
259 responsible for developing and fostering a safe school climate and
260 addressing issues relating to bullying in the school. Such committee
261 shall include at least one parent or guardian of a student enrolled in
262 the school appointed by the school principal.

263 (2) Any such committee shall [:(A) Receive copies of completed
264 reports following investigations of bullying, (B) identify and address
265 patterns of bullying among students in the school, (C) implement the
266 provisions of the school security and safety plan, developed pursuant
267 to section 10-222m, regarding the collection, evaluation and reporting
268 of information relating to instances of disturbing or threatening
269 behavior that may not meet the definition of bullying, (D) review and
270 amend school policies relating to bullying, (E)] receive and analyze the
271 results of the school climate assessments completed pursuant to
272 subsection (d) of section 10-222d, as amended by this act, and other
273 reported data in the aggregate on incidents of bullying, collected in
274 accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of section 10-222d, as
275 amended by this act, and use such data to (A) identify patterns of
276 bullying among students in the school, (B) monitor the progress of
277 school climate improvement and identify any strengths and

278 weaknesses at the school with respect to school climate improvement,
279 (C) develop, in consultation with the safe school climate specialist, a
280 school-based bullying intervention and school climate improvement
281 strategy, providing annual recommendations to the school climate
282 coordinator on improving school climate, (D) review and make
283 recommendations to the district safe school climate coordinator
284 regarding the district's safe school climate plan based on issues and
285 experiences specific to the school, [(F)] (E) educate students, school
286 employees and parents and guardians of students on issues relating to
287 bullying [, (G) collaborate with the district safe school climate
288 coordinator in the collection of data regarding bullying, in accordance
289 with the provisions of subsection (b) of section 10-222d and subsection
290 (a) of section 10-222h, and (H)] and school climate, and (F) perform any
291 other duties as determined by the school principal that are related to
292 the [prevention, identification and response to school bullying for the
293 school] school-based bullying intervention and school climate
294 improvement strategy.

295 (3) Any parent or guardian serving as a member of any such
296 committee shall not participate in the activities described in
297 [subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of] subdivision (2) of this
298 subsection or any other activity that may compromise the
299 confidentiality of a student.

300 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) Within available appropriations,
301 or from funds which may originate from public, private, federal or
302 philanthropic sources, the Office of Early Childhood, in collaboration
303 with the State Department of Education, may offer a competitive grant
304 for up to three alliance school districts to develop and implement a
305 strategy to promote the social and emotional well-being and health of
306 preschool children from age three to children in third grade, with a
307 focus on instructional tools and family engagement. Up to five per cent
308 of the grant funds provided under this section for any fiscal year may
309 be used to pay for administrative costs."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-222d
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-222g
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-222k
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section